



ALEXANDRIA:

FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 24, 1861.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

"To show the very age and body of the times."

A Washington letter to the N.Y. Tribune says:—A valuable parcel was seized here this morning in transit to Gov. Letcher. Months ago Gov. Letcher caused surveys to be carefully made for a military map of Virginia. The memoranda and detached plans were sent to a German employed in the Coast Survey office, to be engraved. He recommended forwarding them to New-York, which was done. A few maps were engraved and sent with the plate and original materials toward Richmond, necessarily through Washington, where the Government took charge of them. They are very accurate, and will be of great use in the coming campaign.

A good story is told, which has not found its way into the Charleston papers: The light-boat which was captured has been anchored at the mouth of the creek which leads to Stone river. Two guns have been placed on board. The one that was down the creek is kept loaded with shot, while the one pointing toward the city is used to fire a morning and evening gun. Not long since, when the sunrise gun was fired, a twelve-pound ball ripped through a negro's shanty and lodged in a hotel, greatly to the consternation of an old negro and several boarders. The crew of the light-boat did not discover that the boat had turned with the tide during the night!

Mr. Jas. M. Caldwell, teller of the Bank of Northern Liberties, Philadelphia, was found half murdered in the woods at Camden, New Jersey, on Sunday morning last. He was lying upon the ground, with the back of his head cut, one ear nearly severed from his head, his right eye, and a frightful wound over the eyebrow. He was taken to the court-house, and medical aid sent for. The victim was only restored to consciousness after many hours insensibility, but still lies in a precarious condition. A man named Kinkle was arrested on suspicion of having committed the outrage.

A letter from Washington says:—"Only the other day, a member of the cabinet asked Gen. Scott if it would not be well to push forward a column of troops into Virginia, to which the old soldier replied, that he had never yet led a division of an army, and did not intend to do so, if such a move were made, then one of three things must happen:—it would be cut off, or be compelled to retreat; or the rest of the army would have to be advanced to support it, before it was ready; either of which would be very disastrous."

A new ten-dollar note on the Merchants and Mechanics' Bank of Wheeling has made its appearance. Look out for it. It is a dangerous counterfeit, and well calculated to deceive. The red of the bill in the counterfeit is deeper than that of the genuine, and the former is more imperfectly executed, but it would nevertheless be readily received by the best judges of money, unless warned of its existence.

The N. Y. Tribune says:—Gen. Butler has spent many hours with Mr. Cameron and Gen. Scott to-day, and started for Annapolis by the 2 o'clock train. His instructions are positive concerning aggressive movements, and to remove, at once, all obstructions to the approach of Norfolk harbor.

The N. Y. Tribune says Mr. Patten a prominent shipbuilder in Maine, is in New York, and it is reported he will be instructed to build several gun boats, whose armament shall be three Dahlgrens, and whose duty will be near the blockaded harbors.

An aged couple were laid on a sick bed last week, at Woonsocket, Mass.; the wife remarked how lonely she would be if her husband were removed. "Oh, I shall take you with me," was his reply. So it proved; they died on Sunday.

Attracted by a cry of murder, at Cincinnati, on Saturday, Mrs. Doherty, seized a poker, rushed to John Murphy's house, and found him in the act of choking his wife to death; she felled him with a blow on the head. The brute has been in the regular habit of maltreating his wife.

The Vigilance Committee at Indianapolis, on Saturday night, seized at the Jeffersonville depot 8 barrels of crackers, 200 muskets, 30,000 ball cartridges, 60,000 percussion caps, and 6 railroad cars destined for points south of the Ohio river.

It is understood that the Government has assumed the control of the Washington Infirmary, with Army Surgeon Magruder, in charge. The Sisters of Mercy will continue their good work there.

Gov. Goodwin, of New Hampshire, has invited the Rev. Henry E. Parker, of Concord, to preach an election sermon before the Legislature on Thursday, June 6. It is thirty years since a discourse was delivered before the Legislature of that State.

Dr. Junkin, for more than twelve years past the efficient and popular president of Washington College, Lexington, Virginia, has resigned his position.

Bishop Odeneimer has prepared a prayer for the soldiers now in the field, to be read in the Episcopal churches of the diocese of New Jersey.

Hon. Oliver Stevens, in a note to the Boston Herald, denies that his brother, Gov. Isaac I. Stevens, of Washington Territory, is a secessionist.

A vessel was wrecked on the river St. Lawrence a few days since. Two of the crew took refuge on floating cakes of ice. All the others perished.

We hear a report from Lancaster, Pa., that the Hon. James Buchanan, ex-President of the United States, is confined to his room by illness.

There is a rivalry still between the Tammany and Mozart Halls, as to which will furnish most men and money.

Rev. Dr. Neville, rector of Trinity Church, Newark, N. J., intends sailing for Europe in the Great Eastern, on Saturday next.

The estates of Gen. J. M. Coal, and Mr. Gesey, at Liberty, Frederick county, Md., were destroyed by fire on the 17th inst.

The Navy Department has ordered the public vessels to be supplied with Custer's telegraphic night signals.

A new postoffice is established at Hamlin, Lebanon county, Pa., and Thos. S. Walmer, appointed postmaster.

William B. Mount, is appointed route agent between Philadelphia and New York, vice George C. Ledy, removed.

The dwelling of Wm. Weston, in Chapel district, Talbot county, Md., was lately destroyed by fire.

Capt. Samuel Whiting, late in command of the Columbia as a transport, has been appointed consul to Nassau.

At Wheeling, Va., John Herton, convicted of passing counterfeit money, has been sent to the penitentiary for two years.

Another fight for the "Championship of England" will take place on the 25th of June, between Hurst and Mace.

An army number of the Atlantic Monthly is published.

The Washington Republican says:—"A young man by the name of Noble Magee, a resident of this city, was arrested yesterday afternoon, by Corporal Taylor and a guard of Company A, Union Regiment, charged with the utterance of treasonable language calculated to incite a riot. Examination was held before Justice Clark at the Central Guard house last night, when quite a number of witnesses were examined, all of whom testified to having heard Magee make use of secession sentiments on various occasions. He was held to bail in the sum of \$1,500 to answer at the next term of the Criminal Court."

Secretary Cameron has issued a circular to the Governors of States, in which he directs them to commission no one of doubtful morals or patriotism, and not of sound health; to appoint no one to a lieutenantcy (second or first) who has passed the age of 22 years, or to a captaincy over 30 years, or to appoint no field officer, (major, lieutenant colonel, or colonel,) unless a graduate of the United States Military Academy, or known to possess military knowledge and experience, who has passed the respective ages of 35, 40, and 45 years.

Thirty hale, hearty and robust blacks, of all sexes and sizes, under the direction of David Price, esp., a wealthy planter, who resides in Rockingham county, N. C., have just arrived in Ohio. Mr. Price accompanied them, in order to settle them on a tract of land in Mercer county, Ohio. He has given them all free papers, and intends to give them, as he styles it, a start in the world.

The Arkansas State Convention has passed a military bill, authorizing the Governor to call out 60,000 men if necessary. It divides the State into two grand divisions, Eastern and western, and appoints one Brigadier General for each. General Bradley was unanimously elected to the command of the Eastern, and General Pierce, late of the United States Army to the Western division.

The Governor of Tennessee has issued a proclamation, dated the 16th instant, to disarm all who will not defend the State. Its material part is embraced in the following paragraph:—"All volunteer organizations in the State who have heretofore drawn arms, and do not hold themselves in readiness for immediate service are hereby required to return them to me immediately, at the State Arsenal, in Nashville, or the penalties of the law will be enforced."

Professor Grant is about to leave New York for Fort Monroe, for the purpose of placing one of his largest calcium lights upon that work. The reflector of this lamp will have a diameter of three feet.

A correspondent at Turks Island informs us, in a letter dated 21st inst. that salt was plentiful, and that the last sales were made at 8 to 8½ cents per bushel. Export duty 2 cent per bushel.

A ninth Satellite has been discovered situated between Hyperion and Japhet. It is suggested that it be named Chiron.

BLOODY WORK IN SOUTHEASTERN MISSOURI.

We received from New Madrid yesterday, a letter dated Poplar Bluff, the 13th inst., from which we learn that that section of the country is infested by a gang of desperate men, who, probably, several hundred strong. The leader of the clan is from South Indiana, and goes by the name of Bill Denver, and is about twenty years of age.

On Thursday night of last week, this man, accompanied by five others, thoroughly armed, each having a brace of six shooters, sword and rifle, and mounted on a good horse, made a descent upon a farm house near Poplar Bluff, and were caught while in the act of stealing the horses from the stable, situated but a few yards from the house. The farmer instead of raising the alarm, collected four neighbors, and with them, all having rifles, challenged the thieves with, "what are you doing here?" "Leave," was the reply, "or we'll send you out on the right track."

In moment where they fired three shots, one ball striking a farmer in the shoulder, and then started for their horses, but while untiring them, were fired upon by the farmers, and one of them fell. The desperado returned the fire, and then fled. After a severe fight the wounded man was captured, taken to the house, where in a few hours, he died, without disclosing his name, and without a groan. Before dying, however, he confessed that the clan had regular organization, and that it was sufficiently numerous and well enough armed to whip any two counties in southeast Missouri, and he admitted being work for them to do, and that speedily.—*Cairo Camp Register of the 16th.*

Seat of the Government of the Confederate States. We find the following despatch in the Charleston "Mercury":—MONTGOMERY, May 19.—The President has vetoed the resolution providing that Congress shall adjourn to Richmond, on the ground that the whole machinery of the Government ought to go too. Whether the project of transferring the whole Government shall prevail, will depend I presume, upon the vote of the Arkansas delegation, which was sworn in yesterday. The greater part of Congress went yesterday, a visit to Pensacola, by invitation of Gen. Bragg.

The above despatch we consider confirmatory of that received here yesterday, stating that Congress had provided for the removal of the seat of government to Richmond, thus coinciding with President Davis' views in vetoing the first resolution, which merely provided for the adjournment of Congress to Richmond.—*Rich. Eng.*

THE WHEAT CRISIS.—Our exchanges from all parts of Tennessee, as well as our letters and verbal messages, all go to show that the prospect for wheat never was better. Indeed, throughout all the grain-growing States, the earth never did yield such a crop of wheat, unless Providence shall interfere to cut it short. In our own State, there never was as great a breadth of land sown in wheat. The stand was never better, the winter never more favorable, while the spring has been all that could be desired. Harvest will be on in fifty days and less, and Tennessee will be blessed with millions of bushels of wheat more than home consumption can dispose of. God be praised for our prosperity, in the midst of our many troubles.—*Knoxville Whig.*

FOUR HUNDRED MORMONS ON THE WAY TO UTAH.—This morning four hundred Mormons passed through this city on their way to Utah Territory. They were from England. Eight cars were occupied by the people and the rest by the baggage. Of the eight passenger cars, two were occupied by these calling themselves first-class passengers. These appeared much better than the other emigrants; the female first-class passengers were particularly distinguishable from ordinary Mormon recruits. The rest of the women were evidently of the poorest class. The emigrant train that conveyed these Mormons was a large one, consisting of ten cars of passengers.—*Cleveland (Ohio) Herald May 20.*

There is but one sick man in all the eight companies in Stafford and King George.

Telegraphic Despatches.

WASHINGTON, May 22.—It is reliably ascertained that Spain denies that the seizure of San Domingo was in consequence of orders or with the knowledge of her government; but she says she must have time and further information before she decides what to do with it. It is not known what the United States Great Britain and France will say upon the subject.

The privateer question may be disposed of summarily. It is now understood that this government several weeks ago offered its assent to the treaty of Paris, abolishing privateering altogether. The attitude of the government is known to be firm in all its foreign relations, insisting, just as it did before disunion began, on all its rights; but it is courteous and friendly toward every power. The foreign ministers here are gratified and pleased with the imposing demonstrations of the loyalty of the people to the Union. It may here be remarked that all of them were present at the reception of the Secretary of State last night, and appeared in the most cordial terms of friendship with him.

Mr. Asta Buruaga, the new Charge d'Affaires from Chili, was, by appointment, received by the Secretary of State to-day. He presented his credentials, and delivered a speech, assuring this government of the sincerest sympathy and respect on the part of the government of Chili, and saying that any harm which could befall the United States would be equally disastrous to Chili. The forms of government of the two nations are the same, and they have a common interest and a common cause. The Secretary of State replied, reciprocating these kind expressions. He said the United States was the friend of all nations, and just to all nations, but they were essentially and forever Republican and American.

It will be recalled that the late administration was not on favorable terms with the Republic of Chili.

The Navy Department will, in the course of this week, invite proposals for building the steam machinery of a number of screw gunboats. The machinery of each to consist of two back-action horizontal engine with surface condensers, and of two vertical water-tube boilers. The cylinders will be 30 inches in diameter, and the stroke and piston 18 inches. The engines will be of the ninety-one square feet of grate surface, and twenty-seven hundred square feet of heating surface.

No proposals will be considered except from proprietors of engine building establishments. Parties desiring to propose for the above machinery, will apply to the chief of the bureau of construction, equipment and repairs, who will furnish them with a complete specification of the same and cross sections of the vessel, together with the provisions and conditions of the contract they will be required to execute.

Professor Amasa McGuffey, secretary of Cassius M. Clay's Guards, visited Mount Vernon yesterday, and reports that the tomb of Washington remains undisturbed. The trips of the steamers thither were suspended some weeks ago, and therefore the only way to reach Mount Vernon is overland from Alexandria. The superintendent requests that no visitor in military uniform will present himself for admission to the grounds.

HARRISBURG, May 22.—W. W. Nise, a captain in the eighth Pennsylvania Regiment, left for Washington to-day as a bearer of the plans and reports concerning the reconnaissance yesterday on the Potomac river. He penetrated, as before stated, the enemy's lines at Shepherdstown.

Samuel J. Koss also penetrated the lines at Williamsport, and drew plans of its positions, and has reported the same to the General Government. The Confederate troops at Williamsport had not crossed the Potomac. They had received no reinforcements up to 3 o'clock this afternoon, but they received two wagon loads of provisions from Martinsburg to-day.

Governor Curtin has determined to establish camps at Easton, and probably also at Erie, Williamsport, Bedford and Uniontown. The policy of establishing camps at Erie and Easton is doubted by military men.

CINCINNATI, May 22.—A special Frankfort dispatch to the Commercial says the House has concurred in the Senate amendment requiring the State Guard to take the oath to support the Constitution of the United States.

Mr. Rousseau made a strong Union speech in the Senate in favor of sustaining the government. He said he did not consider the Union now dissolved, and he had no fears that it would be. The time had passed for appeals to politicians not to dissolve the Union. Tufts of grass had been tried, and we would now see what virtue there was in stones.

WHEELING, May 22.—Advises received here yesterday and to-day state positively that Virginia troops are now in the neighborhood of Cratich, with the evident design of intimidating the Union men from voting against the Ordinance of Secession to-morrow. (2)

Companies of U. S. troops are now encamped here on the Fair Grounds. B. F. Kelly, of Philadelphia, has been elected Colonel of the 1st Virginia Federal Regiment.

St. LOUIS, May 22.—Gen. Harney has issued an address notifying the people of Missouri that the forces of both the general and State governments will be used to maintain the peace of the State in the defence of the rights and property of all persons, and to put down civil disposed persons. General Price will disband the State forces, and he will use prompt measures to insure protection to all.

The Dem. cent says that the July interest funds will not be diverted from their legitimate course.

St. JOSEPH, Mo., May 22.—This afternoon the American flag was hoisted over the Post Office. Soon an excited crowd proceeded to the office, cut the pole down, and tore the flag to pieces, and then raised the State flag. The latter, however, was ordered down by the leader of the crowd, and subsequently they dispersed without committing further acts of violence, and comparative quiet has been restored.

CHICAGO, May 21.—At a meeting of bankers and merchants last night, it was resolved to receive at par the notes of 31 banks, having a circulation of about \$3,500,000. The latter, however, does not suit several of the largest banking houses, because exchanges cannot be had at less than 10 per cent. on this bill. This diversity of opinion tends to restrict business on Chicago, same holders refusing to sell except for gold or exchange.

BOSTON, May 20.—The schooner Marshal Perrin, Capt. Gibbs, at this port, from Sagadahoc, states that on the 13th inst. lat. 31.30, long. 73.40, she captured a schooner. Capt. Gibbs was warned to keep a sharp lookout for privateers, as he had been chased by one the night previous, but had out sailed her. The Victoria purported to be from the Southern Confederacy, bound South.

New York, May 22.—Seven boxes containing papers and notes belonging to General Lee, were seized here to-day, en route via this city from Texas to Virginia.

A quantity of contraband goods shipped by the New Haven Arms Company to O. F. Winchester, Baltimore, were also seized here to-day.

FARMINGTON, May 22.—Mr. Underhill, of the New York Times, who was arrested and imprisoned at Harper's Ferry about a week since, by the Virginia military authorities there, on the charge of being a spy, was released this morning, and arrived here by private conveyance this afternoon.

CAMDEN, N. J., May 21.—Samuel Hanna, for many years in the Post Office of Camden, N. J., has been arrested, and is now imprisoned in the common jail. He is charged with being a bearer of dispatches to Gov. Letcher, of Virginia.

NEW ORLEANS, May 22.—The steamer Arizona has arrived from the Brazos. The surrender of the federal forces in Texas is confirmed.

FORT KEARNEY, May 22.—The San Francisco papers state that the wreck of the ship Sea Nymph, with cargo, sold for the account of underwriter, for \$6,600.

In the Assembly, Mr. Converse presented a petition from a large number of citizens of Colorado, praying for the passage of an act offering the President the credit of the State of California, for any sum which the Legislature may see fit, for the support of the government; such an act to be submitted to the people at the next election, for their approval.

The steamer Cortez brought to San Francisco from Oregon, three companies of the Third Infantry, United States Army, in all 80 officers, 200 men and 75 horses, under command of Captains Ord, Hardee and Lieut. Kip.

The stamped for the Caribboo mining region, in British Columbia, continued. The prospects were excellent. Considerable amounts of treasure had reached Victoria by the Fraser river steamers.

MOBILE, May 20.—The privateer steamer Ivy has captured and taken as a prize the ship Marshall, of Providence, R. I. She was taken outside the bar. Another prize has been taken, but the name of the vessel is unknown.

NEW ORLEANS, May 21.—Mr. Russell, the correspondent of the London Times, arrived here this morning.

ST. LOUIS, May 20.—Ferdinand Kennett, a prominent citizen and politician of Missouri, died at his residence at Selma, last night.

Presbyterian General Assembly, (O. S.) FIFTH DAY.—The Assembly decided not to create an English mission, as asked by a Scotch minister, who sent a communication from the military camp at Aldershot, near London.

The report of the board of publication came up as the order of the day, and led to a protracted debate. The secretary of the board made an address of considerable length upon the large circulation of their books, besides copies of the Scriptures, of which nearly half a million have been distributed. It has been attended with most gratifying results. Their paper, the Sunday School Visitor, has increased its circulation, and has now about 70,000 subscribers.

Rev. Mr. Edwards spoke at length upon the works of the board. With reference to the home and foreign record, he declared it to be a stupid, humbug, useless publication, and ought to be immediately discontinued. It was so full that you might as well read the Congressional Globe for instruction. [Laughter.]

Dr. Schenck, the secretary of the board, was willing to give any information which might be necessary in relation to the doings of the board. He felt that he had done his duty in placing the balance sheet before the board, but if desired he would have it published for circulation. If they printed the doings of the board, other publishing houses might take advantage of such information. He thought it would be impolitic so to do, as it might prove detrimental to the interests of the board.

Several members interrupted the speaker, inquiring how much was spent in salaries. The treasurer, who fills the post of president of a bank, receives one thousand dollars per annum; the bookkeeper receives the same amount, but does more work.

Dr. Musgrave could see no impropriety in publishing a balance sheet for general circulation. He could not see how any publishing house could take advantage of such a publication. Or if they could not publish, why not communicate them to the Assembly?

Dr. M. continued: I do not see why information is withheld as to the capital of the board. I think the assembly ought to determine whether the board has not sufficient capital. Are the profits to be kept down constantly by adding one salary after another? I think for one, that the capital is large enough already, and I think that the Assembly should change the direction of surplus. For instance the price of the books issued might be decreased. It is not desirable that the board should get a capital of half a million; for it will reach that amount, unless they multiply their salaries off too fast. [Laughter.]

In 1851 or 1852 I estimated their net profit at \$10,000 per annum. By this time I think the capital has reached \$250,000. A year ago in this city for \$75,000, as I have reason to believe; and that is a pretty good item of capital to begin with.

The sales of the board during the past year had amounted to \$91,000, and the sum of \$17,000 had been expended during the same time, or 19 per cent. of their actual sales. The office of treasurer could easily be abolished, and the bookkeeper could perform the duties. He also referred in rather sharp terms to the Presbyterian newspaper as being a family concern. He charged them with not acting properly in the publication of articles.

Mr. Leyburn, editor of the paper referred to, rose and wished to make a few remarks. Mr. Musgrave said he did not want to be interrupted; that Mr. L. was not a member of the Assembly, and therefore he called him to order.

The Moderator decided that a person not a member had no right to speak.

Rev. Mr. McPhail said the board of publication was composed of men in good standing in the Presbyterian Church, both ministers and members. Odium is being wrongfully cast upon men who have discharged their duties in the fear of God. Their papers have been fairly sustained for strict investigation, and they had nothing wrong to say. The secretary of the board, upon permission being granted, made further statements about the doings of the board. The house they occupied was entirely overrated in regard to value. Its original cost was but \$37,000, and was given to the board for a particular purpose. The board has in its possession some \$20,000 worth of stereotype plates, but which, however, were only of use to them. The speaker brought a small earthen jar full of hymn and other books, to show the difference between the publications of this board and those of other boards. He also referred particularly to the superiority of the paper and binding, and also to the superior cheapness of such works.

The hour of adjournment arriving, all further debate was shut out.

The Rev. Isaac Rosser, of the Methodist Protestant Church, an old pioneer Methodist preacher, who was in the 80th year of his life, and Mrs. Sarah Childs, aged 90 years, were united in the bonds of wedlock, at Atlanta, Ga., a few weeks ago.

American Affairs in Parliament.

The foreign files bring us a full report of Lord John Russell's reply in the House of Commons to Mr. Gregory's question as to "the belligerent rights" of the Confederate States. Although we have already given its main points, we may state that Lord Lyons, the British Minister in Washington, had informed the British government that, in his opinion, the collection of duties outside Southern ports was impracticable, and Lord Lyons declares that "it is well known to Lord Lyons, and it certainly has been declared law by the United States, that no blockade could be recognized or deemed valid unless it were an effective blockade, [hear, hear,] and I have no doubt that there would be no difference between her Majesty's government and the government of the United States on that point." Then, as to the rights of belligerents, he says:

"The question has been under the consideration of the government. They have consulted the law officers of the crown. The attorney and solicitor general, and the judges of the high court, have come to the opinion that the Southern Confederacy of America, according to those principles which seem to be just principles, must be treated as a belligerent. [Hear, hear.]"

This, of course, was a quasi recognition of the Southern government, and such a recognition as will in British estimation treat her letters of marque as legitimate, not as piratical. Lord John, however, does not recognize the right of these privateers to come into British ports with prizes. He further adds that other important questions (for instance, as to what are the alterations which are to be made in the law of nations in consequence of the declarations of Paris) remained under consideration of the British government.

On the 7th inst., Mr. Bentinck, in the House of Commons, asked, in view of the alarming news from the United States, whether the British government did not anticipate decreased receipts from customs, and a necessity for increased armaments.

Lord Palmerston replied:—"No one can regret more than I do the intelligence which has been received within the last few days from America; but, at the same time, any one must have been shortsighted and little capable of anticipating the probable course of human events, who had not long foreseen the events of similar character to those which we now deplore. [Hear, hear.]"

From the commencement of this unfortunate quarrel between the two sections of the United States, it was evident that the causes of disunion were too deeply seated to make it possible that separation would not take place, and it was also obvious that passions were so aroused on both sides as to make it highly improbable that such separation could take place without a contest. In answer to the question of the honorable member, I would say that, however much I regret the intelligence which we have received within the last few days, yet that intelligence ought not to be my opinion, to make any difference in the arrangements which, after the fullest consideration, we considered were calculated to meet all the requirements of the public service during the present year. [Hear, hear.]"

Mr. Bentinck thought the noble lord had not quite understood his question. The noble lord said the results of the disturbances in America had been anticipated in the financial arrangements. Did the noble lord mean that arrangements had been made to meet the expenses of increased armaments and the risk of diminished revenues, [hear,] or did he simply mean that he did not anticipate that any such consequences would result from the intelligence lately received? [Hear, hear.]"

Lord Palmerston:—"I thought I had, by implication at least, answered all the questions of the honorable gentleman. I do not perceive any reason why we should apply to Parliament for increased armaments [hear] in consequence of the events which are taking place in North America, and I also hope that the customs duties will not materially suffer in consequence of these events."

In the House of Commons, on the 9th of May, Mr. W. E. Forster asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it was not a criminal offense against the provisions of the Foreign Enlistment act, for any subject of her Majesty to serve on board any privateer licensed by the person assuming, as President of the Southern Confederacy, to exercise power over a part of the United States, or for any person within her Majesty's dominions to assist in the equipment of such privateer; and if so, whether he would take measures to prevent the infringement of the law, either by her Majesty's subjects or by any agents of the President of the Southern Confederacy, who are now in England; and also, whether any such privateer equipped in a part of her Majesty's dominions would not be liable to forfeiture.

Sir G. O. Lewis:—"It is in the contemplation of her Majesty's government to issue a proclamation for the purpose of cautioning all her Majesty's subjects against any interference in the hostilities between the Northern and Southern States of America. In that proclamation the general effect of the common and statute law on the matter will be stated. The general principle of our law is that no British subject shall enter into the service of any foreign prince or power, or engage in any hostilities that may be carried on between any two foreign States."

In the House of Lords, on the 10th of May, the Earl of Derby said that he understood that her Majesty's government had come to the conclusion that the Southern States of America were to be considered as a belligerent power, and had referred certain points to the consideration of the law officers of the Crown. The Southern Confederacy has sent out letters of marque for the purpose of covering the sea with privateers, but the Northern States had declared an intention of treating privateers as pirates. He wished to call the attention of the government to the position in which British sailors might be placed, for if there was one thing that he feared, it was that there would be a collision between the British and the Southern privateers. It was also desirable that the government should know in what position they stood as to the law, and that some declaration should be made with respect to British subjects becoming privateers. He believed that the latter was a criminal offense, but the possibility of this country being involved in the dispute between the two sections of the American States, was so serious that he sincerely concurred in the prayer of the noble lord (Lord J. Russell) that we might keep out of it. He hoped, therefore, that it would be distinctly declared that if any British subject entered upon privateering, he must not look to his government for redress or protection. He hoped that the proclamation would give a most distinct and emphatic warning to British sailors, and especially those in her Majesty's service.

Earl Granville said that he quite agreed in the appreciation which the noble Earl showed of the serious consequences of this country becoming involved in this unfortunate dispute. The noble Earl had correctly understood the answer given in another place, that the government would issue a proclamation of warning to British subjects, but it was desirable that the wording of the proclamation should be carefully considered.

The Earl of Derby said that he wished to know if it would be distinctly declared that any British subject joining in privateering, must not look to his government to save him from his own criminal acts.

Earl Granville apprehended that this would follow naturally from the proclamation.

Lord Brougham severely denounced the practice of privateering, and expressed in a few brief but eloquent sentences, his sincere regret that by mutual concessions the horrors of civil war were not likely to be averted in America.

Lord Odoaker reminded their lordships that the right to send out privateers was recognized by international law, and it was only natural that the weaker States should resort to this means of annoying a more powerful enemy. The subject then dropped.

The London Times and America.

Notwithstanding the enormous length of the line of coast, both on the Atlantic and on the Gulf, the Southern ports from which produce can be shipped with any regularity are few in number. There are only five rail-ways which strike this coast throughout its entire extent. These terminate at New Orleans and Mobile in the Gulf, and Savannah, Charleston, and Wilmington on the Atlantic. If the United States can blockade these five ports effectively, they to all practical purposes seal up the Southern States. Of course they must do this effectively. The validity of mere paper blockades has long since been disproved by every Power.

We have been told that there are letters of marque now in London, and that they are arrived by the last steamer to make contracts for Armstrong guns and all other warlike stores of the most recent invention. Both parties will come into the markets of Europe, and will bid for men and ships. So far as privateering is concerned, the South will have the advantage.

No adventurer would care to take service with the North, because there would be little or no prey. The South has no commerce, and its produce would be carried in neutral bottoms. The North, however, has ships upon the open sea, and is a victim that will pay any price for a plunderer. There are still cargoes to be intercepted even in the Eastern seas, and the treasures of California are to be not with a sword. To protect this commerce will require no small portion of the available United States navy, and it is therefore not quite certain that Mr. Lincoln can respond to the reiterated demands of the merchants of New York to blockade all the ports of the South.

Looking at these matters in a strictly English point of view, our interest is first, if possible, that this melancholy rupture should be repaired, and that either by reunion or by amicable separation, peace should be restored. But if this is impossible, then it becomes our duty to object that our cotton supply should not be cut off, and that the markets for our manufactures in the South should not be forcibly shut against us. With this view, we shall be compelled to scrutinize the legality of every blockade established upon the coasts of the seceding States.

The government of Washington has itself relieved us from what might otherwise have